

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 01961 062114 Z

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9510

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, EMIN, BL

SUBJ: PRESIDENT BANZER'S COMMENTS ON SALES FROM US TIN
STOCKPILE

1. AT LUNCHEON YESTERDAY (APRIL 5) AT RESIDENCE IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT BANZER ON THE OCCASION OF VISIT OF SECRETARY OF ARMY FROEHLKE AND ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF ABRAMS, PRESIDENT BANZER COMMENTED AT SOME LENGTH ON US SALES OF TIN FROM STRATEGIC STOCKPILE. SPEAKING MOST CAREFULLY AND DELIBERATELY, THE PRESIDENT SAID ANY SALES OF TIN FROM US STOCKPILE COULD ONLY HAVE DELETERIOUS EFFECT ON THE BOLIVIAN ECONOMY. HE SAID GSA SALES OF TIN IN ANY OF BOLIVIA'S TRADITIONAL MARKETS COULD ONLY MEAN THAT AN EQUIVALENT AMOUNT OF BOLIVIAN PRODUCED TIN WOULD NOT BE SOLD IN THAT MARKET. ALTHOUGH SALES FROM STOCKPILE MIGHT HAVE MINOR EFFECT ON THE ECONOMY OF OTHER MINERAL PRODUCING COUNTRIES, IN BOLIVIA'S CASE THE EFFECT WOULD BE IMMEDIATE AND SEVERE. WHEN ASKED BY SECRETARY FROEHLKE IF SOME WAY COULD NOT BE FOUND TO ACCOMPLISH US PURPOSE AND AT SAME TIME NOT HURT BOLIVIA, THE PRESIDENT REPLIED THAT HE DOUBTED SUCH A WAY COULD BE FOUND. SECRETARY FROEHLKE SAID THAT WHILE MINERAL SALES FROM US STOCKPILE NOT A MATTER WITHIN HIS AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY, NEVERTHELESS HE WOULD REPORT PRESIDENT BANZER'S VIEWS TO WASHINGTON UPON HIS RETURN.

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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 01961 062114 Z

2. IT WAS NOT AT ALL UNEXPECTED THAT PRESIDENT BANZER SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PRESENCE OF SECRETARY FROEHLKE AND CHIEF OF STAFF ABRAMS TO PUT FORTH BOLIVIA' S WELL KNOWN VIEWS REGARDING TIN SALES. NEITHER THE TONE NOR THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PRESIDENT' S REMARKS WAS IN ANY WAY ACRIMONIOUS BUT HE LEFT NO DOUBT IN THE MINDS OF HIS LISTENERS OF THE DEEPLY FELT GOB CONCERN ON THIS SUBJECT. SIRACUSA

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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